

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2002-404-C - ORDER NO. 2003-18

JANUARY 10, 2003

IN RE: Proposed Revisions of Sprint to Tariff No.) ORDER ON EXPANSION
2002-469 to Expand Certain Local Calling) OF LOCAL CALLING
Routes and Changes to the Existing Region) AREAS
Call Area.)

✓ 10/2

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the proposal of Sprint (Sprint or the Company) to expand certain local calling routes and make changes to the existing Region Call Area.

We would note that the Commission balloted the customers in five different sets of exchanges to assess the desirability of making changes to the local calling areas. In each exchange, if the proposal was adopted, the customers would receive an expanded local calling area on a non-optional basis, in return for an increase in local rates.

In the Beaufort exchanges, if the expanded plan was adopted, all Sprint customers in Beaufort would be able to place calls to Hilton Head, Bluffton, Hardeeville, and Ridgeland without incurring RegionCall charges. The charge for this expanded service would be an additional \$4.06 per month for residential customers and \$4.35 per month for business customers. The ballot resulted in 849 customers in favor of the proposal and 3,298 customers in opposition to the proposal.

In the Laurel Bay exchanges, if the expanded plan was adopted, all Sprint customers in Laurel Bay would be able to place calls to Hilton Head, Bluffton,

Hardeville, and Ridgeland without incurring RegionCall charges. The charge for the expanded service would be an additional \$4.06 per month for residential customers, and \$4.35 per month for business customers. The ballot resulted in 270 customers in favor of the proposal and 658 customers in opposition to the proposal.

In the Low County exchange, if the expanded plan was adopted, all Sprint customers would be able to place calls to Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Hardeeville without incurring RegionCall charges. Again, residential customers would pay an additional \$4.06 per month and business customers would pay an additional \$4.35 per month. The ballot resulted in 245 customers in favor and 236 against the proposal.


In the Ridgeland exchanges, if the expanded plan was adopted, all Sprint customers would be able to place calls to Hilton Head, Bluffton, Hardeeville, Laurel Bay, Beaufort, and St. Helena Island without incurring RegionCall charges. Residential customers would pay an additional \$5.84 per month and business customers would pay an extra \$8.16 per month. The ballot resulted in 675 customers in favor of the proposal and 522 against it.

Finally, in the St. Helena Island exchange, if the expanded plan was adopted, all Sprint customers would be able to place calls to Hilton Head, Bluffton, Hardeeville, and Ridgeland without incurring RegionCall charges. Residential customers would pay an additional \$4.06 per month, and business customers would pay an additional \$4.35 per month. The ballot resulted in 359 customers in favor and 1,667 customers in opposition to the proposal.

After analysis of the ballot results, we approve Sprint's plan to expand local calling in the Low Country and Ridgeland exchanges, based on the positive response of the customers in those exchanges. However, we deny implementation of the expanded local calling plan in the Beaufort, Laurel Bay, and St. Helena Island exchanges, based on the negative response from customers in those exchanges.

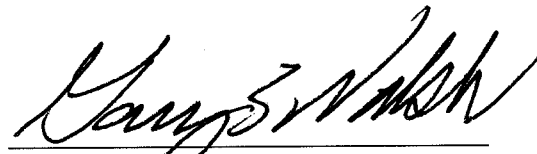
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Mignon L. Clyburn
Chairman

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh
Executive Director

(SEAL)